

STREET\$1SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS
SAN FRANCISCO

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TRIUMPHS OF AN UNDERDOG

San Francisco – 1987

Kenneth Dotson
Editor, Street Sheet

The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, was founded in November of 1987 to give poor and homeless people a voice in the shaping of public policy and the development and operation of programs that directly effect them. The mission of the Coalition is to address the systemic causes of poverty and homelessness.

Operating on a bottom-up organizing model, the COH is led by the people it represents; homeless and formerly homeless people, marginally housed families—those living in vehicles, doubled up with family or friends or living in substandard SRO units—shelter residents, residents of camps, and others. Its structure, strategies and work-plans are all the result of a consensus based decision making process in which the vote of a long term staff member carries the same weight as that of a volunteer, attending their first workgroup meeting. According to Paul Boden in a 2002 interview with Carol Harvey for Street Spirit: “The Coalition’s story is the collective strength of the group.”

THE BEGINNING

Starting in the late 1970’s the Federal Government began the systematic defunding of social programs designed to help low-income people afford housing. By 1983, Ronald Reagan had dealt what history will likely record as the death-blow to our federal safety net. Tax breaks for the wealthiest citizens, priori-

tizing corporate profits over basic human needs, and

out social workers”, began to design the structure of

‘We looked at the federal money coming into the

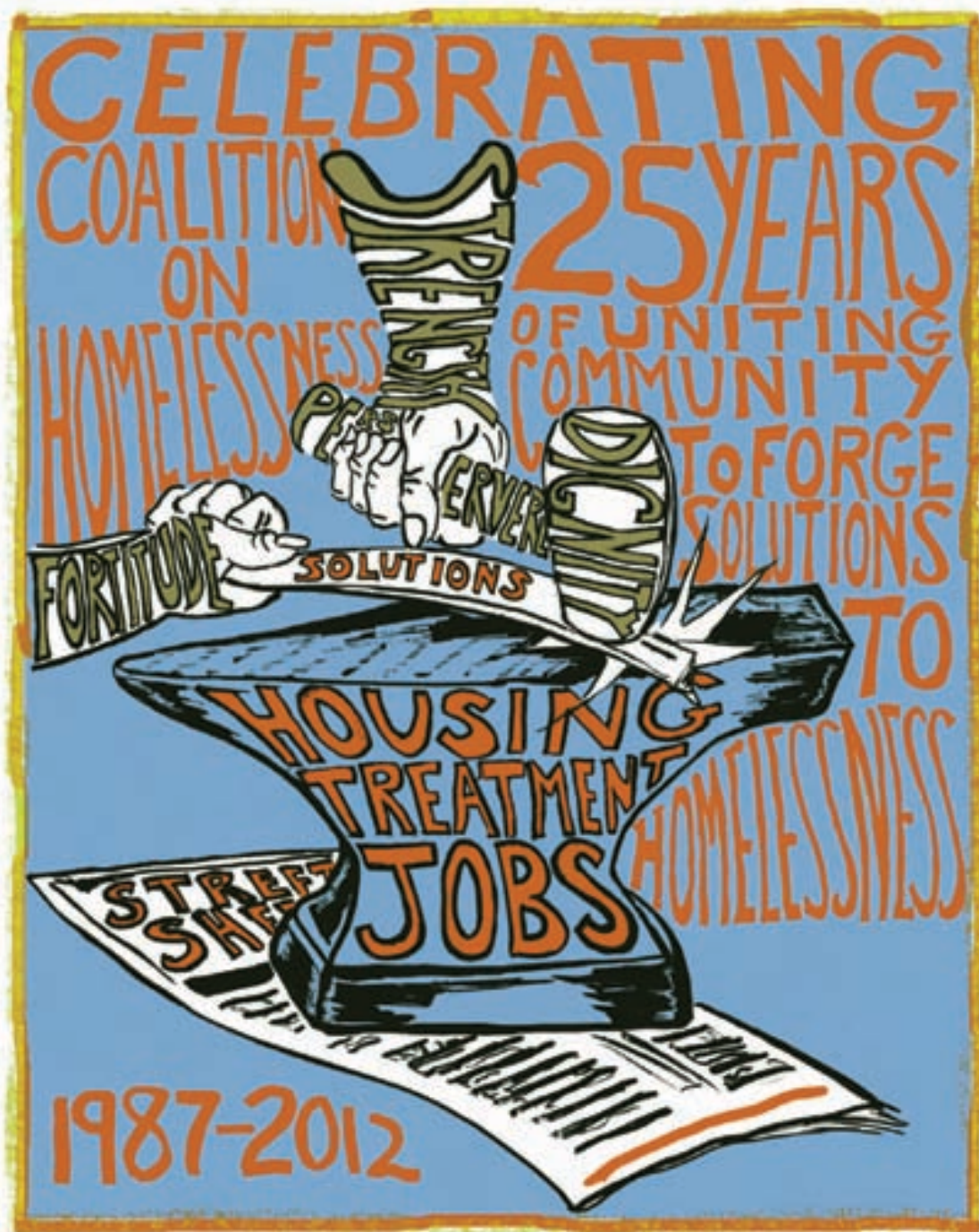
When the federal government started funding homeless programs in the City and County of San Francisco under (then Mayor, Dianne) Feinstein, all the providers and the people the city was funding were called the Service Providers’ Coalition. The Homeless Task Force was organized with Hospitality House, Network Ministries, and some others. There was a division between the two groups. Sandy Weiner, myself, a couple of other people were accepted in and could be part of both groups. There was this growing division between the Homeless Task Force and the homeless people, and (between) the Service Providers Coalition and the providers staffed by the city.

‘The idea was: “Lets form a coalition (with) equal representation and input from both of those groups – the Homeless Coalition.” Even though we could have, we chose not to do government funding or become a provider (because that) would have put (the Coalition) in the drivers seat over homeless people.”

Instead, the Coalition has remained, to this day, an independent body, speaking truth to power on behalf of homeless and marginalized San Franciscans. Through extensive outreach to people living in shelters, SRO hotels, as well as on the streets, it is their voices that the Coalition is able to channel and amplify throughout the halls of City, County, and State government.

Later in this issue you will read about dedicated Coalition Staff members, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in government, education, and other fields where they

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Poster by Art Hazelwood

decimating the budget of the department of Housing and Urban Development—reducing it from over \$80 billion in 1978 to around \$12 billion in 1983—and giving it instead to wealthy people and investors to use for second homes or rental properties, created homelessness as we see it today.

In 1987, Paul Boden and a small group including Sandy Weiner, Joe Wilson—currently the Community Building Program Manager at Hospitality House—and others—a group he refers to collectively as “burned-

a new organization that would unite service providers with homeless people to work toward a common goal. The organizations first official document was written on a cocktail napkin at Harrington’s Bar—then on Jones St and now at Turk and Larkin, across the street from the current COH office—still the venue of choice for celebrating COH victories.

In the same 2002 interview with Carol Harvey referenced earlier, Paul talks about the their vision of the Coalition’s structure and mission:

city, then the city allocating it out to non-profits. We wanted a non-government-funded organizing body, systemic in its approach. It didn’t do direct services, receive government money, or compromise in its ideas and its values. There was an equal share of providers and homeless people.

‘(We saw) how welfare workers and clients hate each other. Our intent was to create a body that would ensure (some cohesiveness between) the people working in homelessness and the people living in homelessness.

About this Issue of Street Sheet

The layout of this issue of *Street Sheet*, while not identical, uses many style elements from the first decade of publication. Included are items that have been pulled from the 23 years of *Street Sheet* archives. We present this look back at content and style as a tribute to Lydia Ely, our first editor. and the many other staff members, writers, and artists whose hard work and dedication laid the solid foundation upon which we’re honored to stand.

THE SECOND EDITION OF STREET SHEET FROM JANUARY OF 1990



1987
continued from page 1

continue to fight for social and economic justice.

The accomplishments of the Coalition over the past 25 years are extensive. Unfortunately, the need is greater now than ever. The ongoing theft of the nations wealth from the workers who produce it by the criminal elite who do nothing to earn it, is producing an increase in the numbers of families and individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time. The number of people who are one check away from homelessness grows as the cost of living is driven up while the wages

paid for lower income jobs seem frozen at decade old levels; all of this to ensure record profits for corporations and their stock holders.

For 25 years, the Coalition on Homelessness has been an advocate for real solutions to poverty and homelessness. Today, in 2012, just as it was in 1987, the solution to poverty is a living-wage job and the solution to homelessness is a home. My hope is that the 50th Anniversary of the Coalition will be a reunion of people who had once worked for an amazing organization that has long ceased to exist because the travesty of Homelessness is a distant memory of a dark era in US history.

STREET SHEET EDITORIAL POLICY

The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, is made up of homeless and formerly homeless people, representatives of over fifty service, shelter, and housing providers, advocacy groups, and neighborhood and religious organizations. The Coalition’s volunteers and staff, many of whom have been homeless, write most of the articles in the **STREET SHEET**. These appear without a byline. Articles by people who are not COH staff members, or extremely personal articles, usually receive a byline. These articles do not necessarily represent the views of the COH: The **STREET SHEET** aims to provide a forum for voices which are not commonly heard in mainstream media.

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CONTRIBUTORS AND STAFF

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Coordinating Editor: Kenneth Dotson

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STREET SHEET VENDING PROJECT

STREET SHEET circulation is 32,000 copies monthly; 1,200 are mailed out, 1,000 distributed to shelters, and 29,800 are sold by homeless and poor people on the streets as an alternative to panhandling.

STREET SHEET project volunteers work out of the Coalition on Homelessness’ office. Homeless and low-income vendors receive up to 75 papers per day, selling them for one dollar per copy, and keeping 100% of the proceeds.

STREET SHEET vendors ARE NOT authorized to collect funds for the Coalition on Homelessness through door-to-door solicitation or any other method.

To support the Coalition on Homelessness financially, or to purchase a subscription, contact the Coalition directly:

Mail: 468 Turk Street San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 415.346.3740

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E-Mail: kdotsn@cohsf.org

Websites:
<http://streetsheetsf.wordpress.com>
www.cohsf.org

Thank you.

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS MEETINGS

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach. The information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work: We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people—they bring their agenda to us. Our advocacy agenda is primarily designed by the Coalition workgroups, which involve and strengthen collaboration between homeless people, concerned community members, and providers of social, health care, housing, employment, and legal services, to systematically address needs identified in outreach.

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, please contact us at 415.346.3740.

MEETINGS

Housing Justice Workgroup
Every Tuesday at 12 noon

Human Rights Workgroup
Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

STREET SHEET
New Vendor Orientation
Every Friday at 10:00 a.m..

All meetings are at 468 Turk Street
Between Larkin and Hyde

LEADERSHIP FORGED AT THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

Though there are too many to list, here are just a few of the community leaders who cut their teeth with the Coalition, organizing the homeless community in San Francisco.

Paul Boden

One of the original founders of the Coalition on Homelessness, Paul went on to start the Western Regional Advocacy Project, uniting homeless organizations spanning the west coast fighting for accountability on the federal and state legislative level. WRAP is currently leading the campaign to pass Homeless Bills of Rights in both Oregon and California.

Steve Williams

Starting fresh out of college at the Coalition, Steve worked toward the organization of welfare rights in San Francisco forming a group which expanded into its own organization here, and then expanded that group into it's own organization, playing a key role in issues such as raising the minimum wage.

Malika Saada Saar

After helping in the creation of "Family Rights and Dignity", an Afro-centric project at COH, Malika founded "Crossing The River" an organization that introduced poor black mothers to famous black writers, and later co-founded 'Rebecca's Project', to address the sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls and to combat the predatory practices occurring on Craigslist.

Gabriel Haaland

A volunteer at the Coalition on Homelessness, Gabriel worked on everything from building takeovers to civil rights work. Gabriel went on to successful sue the SFPD for mistreatment on trans-gender citizens, worked at the Tenants Union and became the local political director for SEIU.

Joe Wilson

One the founders of the Coalition on Homelessness, Joe went on to work for a myriad of organizations including Coleman Project for Families and Youth. He now runs the community organizing and community building at Central City Hospitality House.

Alex Vitale

Focusing his attention on the civil rights while here at the Coalition on Homelessness, Alex is now an author and professor at Brooklyn College.

Chris Daly

Chris worked at the Coalition on Homelessness when he was a student, and went on to co-found Mission Agenda, an organization gentrification and bad landlords in that neighborhood. He went on the become elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors representing district six, his street fighting style helping define the fire-brand style of politics that took place during the Brown/Newsom era.

WORDS FROM OUR FRIENDS:

"This is one group that is successful every day, because it doesn't depend on help from above. The Coalition is built on the idea of people working together to find solutions to help themselves. I congratulate the Coalition on Homelessness on its anniversary."

Tom Ammiano
California State Assembly Member
Representing the 13th District

"I want to congratulate the Coalition on Homelessness for 25 years of leadership advocating for the needs of individuals who are homeless and poor. The Coalition has insisted that our City consider the civil and human rights of individuals who are marginalized."

Citizens become frustrated with the presence of homelessness. The Coalition challenges us to see these individuals, first and foremost, as human beings; someone's child, sibling, parent or friend. We can't sweep people away. We need to advance systems that help reclaim people's lives and maintain the respect and dignity that is essential to becoming independent."

Last February, Mayor Ed Lee asked me to join his administration. For more than 25 years, Mayors have had advisors focusing on homelessness. My interest was to work more broadly on outcomes for individuals and families in all City-sponsored housing: shelters, supportive, public and affordable housing."

We're called HOPE (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement) – because we can end homelessness for families, veterans, and others populations in our City."

The Coalition on Homeless is an incredible catalyst for HOPE. My first week, we sat down at the Coalition offices with families and individuals struggling in government systems that weren't responsive or effective."

Working together, we've made tremendous strides at improving our City's response to homelessness."

With the leadership of Supervisor Jane Kim and Mayor Lee, the Coalition secured a Shelter Access Workgroup. This Workgroup has brought together hundreds of consumers, providers and city officials to redesign the front-end of our emergency shelter system. The Coalition was a strong partner both in proposing ideas and ensuring strong input from homeless individuals at every step."

Building on this partnership, the Coalition worked with providers to unify efforts around the City budget. First, Mayor Lee put forward a city budget that, for the first time in years, contained no cuts for the Department of Public Health and the Human Services Agency. Then agen-

cies met frequently with city leaders to ensure that a coordinated budget proposal was thoughtfully developed to include funding for Resource Centers, Shelters and rapid re-housing and eviction prevention."

Supervisor Jane Kim and other members of the Budget Committee secured \$3 million in additional funds that are now improving quality at these vital facilities and assisting more individuals and families not to become homeless."

This would not have happened without the Coalition's advocacy and organizing."

The Coalition has also been instrumental in our efforts to have our Public Housing agency be more dynamic in responding to homelessness. We worked together to update SFHA's administrative rules to provide priority for families that are homeless or living in SROs."

Jennifer Friedenbach, the Coalition's Director, is a powerful presence throughout City government. As with most Coalition leaders, she is respected, sometimes feared and always fearless. Jennifer joined me to visit Seattle's Wet Housing for chronic inebriates. We share a passion for harm reduction models that improve health and wellness."

I'm excited about working with the Coalition, because this is a very unique time for our City; politically we are not as polarized."

So this presents us with the best opportunity in a generation to forge consensus around initiatives that can reduce poverty. The Coalition has joined me in speaking out about the disproportionality of homelessness for African Americans. We need to talk about race if we are eradicate poverty."

These have been difficult years economically for San Francisco. As we rebound, I'm counting on the Coalition to keep issues of poverty, housing access, and immigrant rights in the forefront. You have my commitment to further this partnership and to continue the advances we've made in 2012."

Bevan Dufty
Director
Mayors Office of Housing, Opportunity,
Partnerships and Engagement

25 Years of Forging Solutions to Homelessness

Coalition on Homelessness San Francisco

For decades, the Coalition on Homelessness has developed the leadership skills of numerous homeless San Franciscans to forge true solutions to the housing crisis and beat back mean-spirited attacks against them. This represents some of the highlights of our collective accomplishments.

1987

A ragtag group of community activist and homeless folks, fed up with the lack of a response to homelessness that addressed the root causes, formed the Coalition on Homelessness.

The Coalition pulled together a collaborative of community organizations to make San Francisco the home of one of the most progressive welfare income disregard programs in the country, whereby General Assistance recipients can retain earnings and save funds to move into permanent housing.

1989

The Coalition founded the Street Sheet, now the oldest continuously published street newspaper in North America.

1990

The Coalition created a unique housing and employment project, the Community Housing Partnership, which now provides close to 1,000 units of permanent affordable supportive housing for the City's poorest residents, and employs homeless people in the construction, maintenance, and support services at those housing locations. This was the first "supportive housing" for homeless people in the city.

1992

The Coalition designed and advocated for the McMillan Center, an innovative 24-hour drop-in facility for substance users, as an innovative strategy to reduce the number of street deaths.

1993

The Uniform Grievance Procedure was

developed in collaboration with other organizations and funded by the City to ensure shelter residents have due process rights and are not unfairly evicted from shelters.

Successfully fought against the revival of misguided hot line hotel policy, thus protecting cash assistance to destitute adults.

1994

The Coalition advocated for and designed A Woman's Place – a drop-in center, shelter, and transitional housing program now assisting mentally disabled women – through the convening of the Homeless Women's Task Force.

The Coalition fought back efforts to criminalize sitting or lying on San Francisco sidewalks in a grassroots electoral campaign.

Fought back another electoral attempt to deduct rent from welfare recipients' checks

Succeeded in passing a resolution at the Board of Supervisors to demand and end to the Matrix program, which broadly persecuted homeless people, forced to live on the streets, through ticketing, property confiscation and police sweeps.

1995

Through direct action and media work, the Coalition saved the substance abuse treatment program system for families from collapsing in San Francisco, by getting the City to release over \$1.7 million in additional funds to local programs.

1996

Thanks to Coalition pressure, the District Attorney dismissed 39,000 tickets issued by the anti-homeless Matrix program.

Through legal action, overturned the Mandatory Direct Rent Program which would have greatly reduced welfare payments to homeless single adults.

The Coalition successfully organized welfare recipients to demand that Trader Joe's accept Food Stamps.

1997

The Coalition's General Assistance Rights Union became an independent organization: People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER). This eventually led to single adult welfare recipients earning a living wage while conducting workfare in exchange for their checks.

Spearheaded campaign for substance abuse treatment on demand, which resulted in over \$12 million dollars in new treatment funds, and the development of a grassroots community planning process for funding priorities and contract awards.

Low-income mothers, organized by the Coalition, designed the concept and garnered funding for a community-based 24-hour drop-in treatment center for families with children living in the Tenderloin, called Oshun, after the Yoruba goddess of healing.

1998

The Coalition wrote and successfully campaigned for adoption of a "No Turn Away" policy for families seeking emergency shelter in San Francisco.

Organized for and wrote legislation to create a single standard of care whereby uninsured mentally-ill people are afforded the same access to mental health treatment as those who are insured.

1999

Released ground breaking report entitled "Locked Out" which through hundreds of interviews with mentally-ill homeless people, found that, contrary to popular opinion, homeless mentally ill people were by and large attempting to access mental health treatment, but were either denied access or subjected to a cumbersome process they were unable to navigate.

25 years of Solutions to Homelessness
continued from page 4

2000

Together with community partner organizations, formed the “People’s Budget Collaborative” which identified alternative city budget savings and revenues and over the years has staved off tens of millions in cuts to poverty abatement programs. The group was active for more than nine years, and frequently staffed by the Coalition on Homelessness.

2002

The Coalition led the work that created the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center (MNRC)—the first resource center in the Mission District. Everyday, the MNRC provides multiple services to over 100 clients, most of them Latino.

2004

The Coalition identified hundreds of San Francisco Housing Authority vacant units and demanded that homeless families be placed in those units. In a great victory for homeless families, the SFHA agreed to our demands and 300 homeless families filled those units.

2004

The Street Sheet was inducted into the Northern California Society of Professional Journalists.

2005

Shelter Monitoring Committee legislation passed and the Committee formed by appointment. This committee tracks conditions in shelters and reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. This work has resulted in exposure and correction of countless problems in the shelter system.

After a two-year long campaign by the Coalition, the San Francisco Housing Authority revamped its process to fill vacant units.

Protected 1,700 uninsured people who would otherwise have lost their psychiatric treatment.

2006

Coalition work passed legislation that ensures vacant publicly-owned surplus city property be turned over for housing homeless people. This legislation has led to two large affordable housing projects targeting homeless veterans and families.

Organizing work done by the Coalition’s Right to A Roof project led to the creation of the San Francisco Community Land Trust, a nonprofit that will acquire land and preserve affordable housing in San Francisco.

2007

Together with Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (Berkeley), Street Spirit (Oakland), Los Angeles Community Action Network, Sisters of the Road (Portland, OR) and Real Change (Seattle, WA), we collectively founded the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) via Coalition founder Paul Boden.

Homeless families organized by the Coalition on Homelessness campaigned for a local rental housing subsidy and increased eviction prevention funding. We eventually garnered \$1.3 million for the subsidy and \$700,000 for eviction prevention – protecting hundreds of families from homelessness and enabling hundreds more to exit homelessness.

Released Shelter Shock—a report on human rights violations in the shelter system, revealing that 55% of all shelter clients reported experiencing some form of abuse, and bringing media light and legislative action to these problems.

2008

Following the ground-breaking release of our report Shelter Shock, we drafted legislation to mandate minimum standards in the shelters and now for the first time our shelters have enforceable minimum standards around health, hygiene, and human rights of shelter residents.

2009

Halted the practice by the city of spraying homeless people with high powered hoses in the middle of the night.

The Coalition handled more than 2,800 civil rights cases in collaboration with Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights, connecting homeless folks who have received “quality of life” citations to pro-bono legal representation.

Homeless families fought for and won an extension to the local rental subsidy program, preventing dozens of families from becoming homeless.

Increased circulation of the Street Sheet to twice a months, allowing for more current news and increased sales for vendors.

2010

Passed legislation to still the runaround associated with accessing shelter, by lengthening shelter stays and reducing wait times for shelter seekers.

Settled a lawsuit that led to greatly improve access and conditions for people with disabilities.

2011

Reached the mark of over \$8,000,000 transferred into the hands of destitute vendors selling Street Sheet!.

Homeless families, through the Coalition on Homelessness, brought attention to the dramatic rise in family homelessness and won a \$1.5 million match of private funding for new housing subsidies, and the release of 77 vacant public housing units to homeless families.

2012

Succeeded at gutting legislation that would have criminalized the very state of being homeless in two plazas in the Castro – Jane Warner Plaza and Harvey Milk Plaza.

Won passage of a resolution calling for a working group to re-imagine shelter reservations, to move away from a system that requires individuals to stand in line for up to 17 hours.

Beat back the implementation of Tasers, which are known to increase fatalities at the hands of the police, and instead worked to get the police to subscribe to implementing Crisis Intervention Team to address people in psychiatric distress.

25 YEARS O



OF MEMORIES



FROM THE EDITORS DESK
CHANCE MARTIN—2004

Determination is one of the most important qualities that mark the Coalition on Homelessness. In an organization created 17 years ago as a self-defense response to the adversity of homelessness, such determination became a vital part of our collective culture. Being part of the passionate, committed and fierce crew of people who are the staff and volunteers of this organization is an experience that has brought me more genuine pride than any other. That big “we” is the true voice of the STREET SHEET.

Our 400 or so currently active STREET SHEET vendors have been able to earn upwards of \$6 million over the past 15 years simply by helping us get our message into the streets—and restoring some valuable dignity and purpose by utilizing our paper as an alternative to panhandling.

Over the past 15 years STREET SHEET has stood out for the fact that most of the issues content is planned, written, produced, and created by homeless and formerly homeless activists, writers, poets, and artists—folks who can speak authoritatively about homeless issues without reciting some scripted public relations double-speak or commissioning and following recommendation from a marketing survey. We figure there will always be a market for the truth regardless of who sits in the mayor’s office, the governor’s mansion, or the White House. And, it only costs you a dollar

Truth is, one of the most amazing things about the whole process of getting this paper into your hands has been learning just how much homeless people have to say, whenever someone cares to listen. In fact, homeless people have so much to say about so many issues that the message sometimes grows diffuse.

In STREET SHEETS’s 15 years of existence, and the Coalition on Homelessness’ 17 years, that core message hasn’t changed: It is NOT a crime to be homeless. Every time we ask homeless people what they need to get off the streets (because it’s our job to act on the issues our homeless constituents prioritize), it always boils down to the same four answers: 1) safe, affordable housing; 2) quality, accessible healthcare; 3) jobs paying wages workers can actually live on; and 4) lifelong educational opportunities in order to catch a piece of that American Dream our leaders continue to promise.

If that makes us “radicals”, well that’s just

one more place we can earn some well-earned pride. Because we are the American Dreamers—we exercise the First Amendment to serve the public interest. And we share a vision of an America we can all call home, where we all have a home.

But until that day comes, gentle readers, you can rely on the fact that we won’t be backing down of changing our tune. We will continue speaking truth to power as long as we still have a voice, and you’ll continue to find STREET SHEET available on a street corner near you as long as homeless people still need cash to survive

STREET SHEET-ARTISTS
ART HAZELWOOD

I came upon the STREET SHEET in 1993. It attracted me equally for its art and its writing. I sent in some art. At the time I was hoping I could contribute to bringing a focus to homelessness. What I realized only later was how much I benefitted by being part

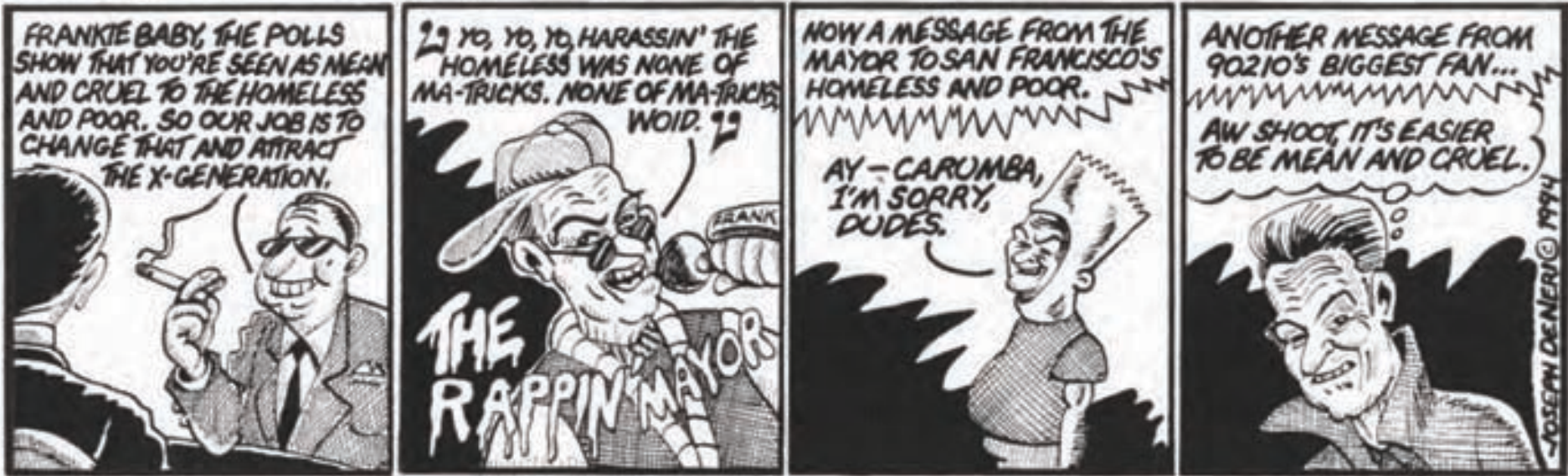
of the STREET SHEET. The ability to produce artwork of social and political relevance and to have it published and distributed (30,000 copies a month!) was a powerful incentive that moved me both as an artist and as a human being into a more engaged existence. The STREET SHEET allowed me to expand both my art and my vision of the role of art in society

I was in the second wave of artists that founding editor Lydia Ely gathered together. First, of course, there was Jain “In Vain” Winkelman and Eliza Miller, others soon followed; Ed Gould, Shawn Cassidy, Victoria Black, Joseph DeNeri, Casper Banjo, Roberta Loach, and more recently Christine Hanlon and Eric Drooker. Many of us became regular contributors over the years. Bringing together artists and poets with social and political and social issues is not so common today. I think most of these artists would agree with me that the rare mix of the STREET SHEET has been mutually beneficial to both the artists and, we hope, to the newspaper. And it is that energy of community that has led to the interaction of art and politics that is the annual auction

Kindred Spirits—Ed Gould—1997



IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT A BIGTIME AD AGENCY



STREET SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS
SAN FRANCISCO

HOLIDAYS 1991-92

Sección
en
Español!

THE GOVERNOR'S "TWO TIERS": The Haves and the Have-Nots

In the late 1960s, the United States government launched a "War on Poverty." In the early 1990's, our government in launching a "War on the Poor."

At the beginning of this fiscal year, families on AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) saw a 4.4% cut in their checks. Not surprisingly, San Francisco's emergency shelters saw an increase in the numbers of families they had to turn away because they were full. 4.4% may not sound like a huge amount, but its impact on human lives was great. In the year prior to July, 1991, Hamilton Family Center reported 690 incidents of turnaways; in the first three months after the cuts, the shelter reported 850 such turnaways.

Now Pete Wilson has announced what he calls his "Taxpayer Protection Plan." Just by the name of this initiative you can see that the governor's approach is to divide and conquer. Taxpayers should be protected. Tax loopholes for corporations and wealthy individuals should be closed. Tax money allocated through and spent by government needs to be better accounted for. Junkets, inside deals, jobs to "supporters," writeoffs to large corporations and the total waste associated with state bureaucracies warrant protection for taxpayers.

But don't be fooled. Wilson is trying to target the poorest Californians to make the sacrifices for our debt. There is a well-known saying in politics: "You dance with the ones who brought you to the party." Just as Jordan

would dance with Quentin Kopp, Wilson is dancing with corporate interests over the human beings who couldn't afford to finance his campaign.

Last year a poll was conducted which showed that the majority of Californians supported closing loopholes and bringing the

Well, maybe this year we can change that misconception. Last month a statewide campaign was developed to support the people who are going to be hit with these cuts into a unified group that cannot and will not be ignored because they are poor. It's called the "Campaign for a Fair Share," and its focus is to

build broad public support for fairness in the budget process. Not "handouts, fairness. Why should children be sleeping in our streets to protect the rights of a company to write off the cost of a luxury box at Candlestick?

Believe it or not, most people on welfare support welfare reform. Welfare is punitive; it punishes people who are trying to leave the system, and it is degrading. But here's Wilson's idea of "reform": a two-tiered benefits program. The first tier guarantees a 10% cut to benefit levels, and the second is a 15% cut after six months if there is an able-bodied adult in the household (single mothers included) who has not yet found a job. If 4.4% had the earlier mentioned impact, imagine what 25% will do. The kind of "reform" Wilson is proposing is less a "two-tiered" welfare program and is actually gonna create a two-tiered California—the haves and the have-nots.

We encourage everyone to join in the "Fair Share" campaign to let our elected representatives know that the only viable solution to poverty is economic development of poor neighborhoods with businesses run by the people who live in these neighborhoods.

To get involved, contact Paul Boden or Mikey at 346-3740.

[See page 8 for a fact sheet on AFDC in California.]



© Robert Curet 1991

tax level of our richest citizens back to 11% (where it had been prior to Deukmejian's cuts) over cutting AFDC. But the legislature cut AFDC anyway. As it was explained by a lobbyist in Sacramento, "Poor people aren't organized; they don't give money to campaigns and they don't vote so ... they don't exist."

*The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco
awards the November, 2012 title of*

Street Sheet Vendor of the Month

to

Mr. Adam Reichert

Nominated by **Street Sheet** readers and recognized by
the **Street Sheet** and Coalition Staff for his consistent and positive
representation of the Vending Program

December, 2012



Jennifer Friedenbach
Executive Director
Coalition on Homelessness, SF



Kenneth Dotson
Editor, Street Sheet
Coalition on Homelessness, SF

STREET SHEET VENDOR OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

We know we have some pretty awesome vendors out there. We could use your help to recognize them.

Call the editor and nominate the Lady or Gentleman you purchased your
STREET SHEET from as the next

Vendor of the Month

You can contact **Street Sheet**
by phone at:
415-346-3740 ext. 309
Or by E-mail at:
kdotson@cohsf.org

Or if you're in the area, drop by 468 Turk, Between Larkin and Hyde and ask for Ken

Winners will be recognized in the first **STREET SHEET** edition each month.

The second edition of the month will
feature the winner's story, giving you an
opportunity to better know our

VENDOR OF THE MONTH

25 Year Reunion

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Celebrating 25 Years of Coalition on Homelessness

Friday December 7, 2012, 5:30- 9pm

Polish Club

3040 22nd Street @Shotwell

San Francisco, CA 94110

Tickets \$15- \$75 sliding scale

(However, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.)

- Funky and Smooth Grooves By: D.J. Glen Castro
- Live Music By: Chicken Paw
- Delicious Mexican Dinner By: Justice Warrior Madres
- Spoken Word

Do a little dance, have a lot of laughs, and get down!

SHELTER MONITORING COMMITTEE

MEETING SCHEDULE

Bring your concerns and recommendations about the shelters to the Shelter

Monitoring Committee monthly meeting:

December 19, 2012, 10 a.m.

City Hall, Room 408

You can leave a confidential message about any shelter issues at 415.255.3642.

You may call this number collect.

Tell us both compliments and complaints.

*Help us improve
your shelters!*

COHSF NEEDS LIST

COMPUTERS & PERIPHERALS:

LCD Flat Screen Monitors
Macintosh Computers G5+
Dual core or higher PC's
Mac or PC Laptops
(same specs as above)
USB Keyboards & Mice
USB/FW External Hard Drives
External DVD Burners
Network Attached Storage
Writable Media

OTHER:

Professional SLR Digital Cameras
Digital Video Recorders
Medium Size Refrigerator

Please contact Ken at 346.3740 or
kdotson@cohsf.org.
Thank you!

*We appreciate all generosity
All donations are tax-deductible.*

Why waste your weekend on a garage sale when you can DONATE:

clothing, leatherwear, shoes, furniture, electronics, lamps, toys, bicycles, collectibles, books/magazines, artwork, housewares, music and movies, luggage, mirrors, jewelry and accessories, crutches/wheelchairs/walkers

to **COMMUNITY THRIFT** at **623 VALENCIA**. Please be sure to designate **COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, ACCOUNT #205** as the beneficiary. All donations must be boxed or bagged. You can call Community Thrift at 861.4910 to ensure your donations will be accepted at the drop-off site at Sycamore Street. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

HELP SUPPORT THE STREET SHEET

When we began publishing the **STREET SHEET** in 1989, we never imagined that homelessness would remain prevalent in our community, or that the response from City officials and the mainstream media would be so punitive. Our reasons for publishing the paper are the same today as they were at the inception of the project: The need still exists for perspectives on homelessness and poverty that go beyond the simplifications that appear in most news sources.

In order to maintain an independent voice, the **STREET SHEET** and the Coalition on Homelessness’ other projects are not supported by government or corporate interests—We depend on the continuing support of individuals like *you* who believe that the work of creating solutions to homelessness matters.

The easiest way that you can help provide long-term support for this work is by becoming a sustainer: giving a small amount every month, every quarter, or twice a year.

- Making a sustaining pledge is easy: After you set up a pledge with us, we can electronically bill you or charge your credit card as often as you choose.
- Making a pledge is affordable: Ten or twenty dollars a month is affordable for most budgets—that’s only \$5 to \$10 per paycheck! But those smaller gifts add up to a very meaningful contribution over a year’s time.

For a \$50 pledge, you can become an underwriter of the **STREET SHEET**. Your support:

- Provides critical information on available services, programs, changes, and policy developments that affect homeless people.
- Remains the primary vehicle for San Francisco’s homeless people to voice their concerns, opinions, and stories to 32,000 readers monthly.
- Provides over 230 extremely poor vendors the opportunity to earn money for food, shelter, and other necessities every month.

Together, through monthly contributions to the Coalition’s work, sustainers are helping to make the important work described above possible. Please become a part of this grassroots effort today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State / ZIP: _____

Phone / E-Mail: _____

- I want to support the Coalition and the **STREET SHEET** at \$ ____ / month for ____ months
Please list my name in the **STREET SHEET** as: _____
- I want to support the work of the Coalition on Homelessness with a single tax-deductible contribution in the amount of: *(circle amount)*

\$20 \$25 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ ____

Please charge my credit card: **MasterCard** or **VISA**

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: **Coalition on Homelessness 468 Turk Street San Francisco, CA 94102**

UNDERWRITERS

Special thanks to the following **STREET SHEET** underwriters from the staff and volunteers of the Coalition on Homelessness. Your continued support has been vital in keeping the **STREET SHEET** on the streets since 1989. For further information on how you can underwrite the **STREET SHEET**, please contact us at 415.346.3740.

Rudd Canaday
Jesse J. Henry
Alexander Mulder
Lore and David Phillips
Bob Prentice
Qoöl Happy Hour
Toni and Randy Remillong
Amy and Harvey Rose
William Roth
Douglas Scheppegrrel
Van Swearingson
Sylvia and John Warnes
Karen and Joe Weisman
Richard Wiersba
Dani Williams

The work of the Coalition on Homelessness is also made possible by the generous support of the following foundations:

Astraea Foundation
Ben & Jerry’s Foundation
Lynn Handleman Fund
Hays Family Foundation
Margaret Mellon Hitchcock Foundation
Victor and Lorraine Honig Fund
Left Tilt Fund
Unitarian Universalist Fund for a Just Society
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Winky Foundation

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